

UCLA Faculty Association

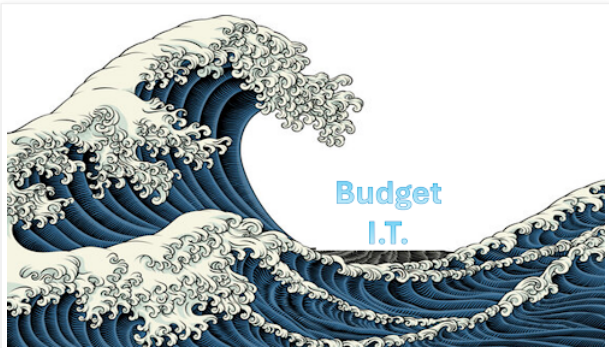
News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Home

About

Monday, November 17, 2025

Overwhelming votes



As blog readers will know, last week there was a session of the UCLA Legislative Assembly at which two special resolutions were proposed:*

One dealt with information sharing with the Academic Senate about the budget. It passed 115 to 1.

The other deal with information with the Academic Senate about campus IT. It passed 104 to 2.

(Information from an email circulated this afternoon.)

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*We reproduced the resolutions at:
<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/1/1/rumors-part-2.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [5:39 PM](#) No comments:

Labels: [UCLA](#)

Two

From [CalMatters](#): *The University of California serves 300,000 students, yet only one of the two students on the 26-member Board of Regents is allowed to vote. Now, student leaders are campaigning for a second vote, saying it would better ensure that UC policy reflects all students...*

Currently, the non-voting student spends the first year on the board as a "regent-designate." That student then moves into the voting position the following year. The students are selected from an applicant pool of all UC graduate and undergraduate students and approved by the board. By adding a second vote for student regents, UC would follow in the footsteps of the other two public higher education systems in the state. Legislation passed earlier this decade enabled voting power for two student representatives on the California State University and California Community College governing boards...

In 2021, former Sen. Steve Glazer, a Democrat from Orinda in the East Bay, introduced Senate Constitutional Amendment 5, which would have required the creation of a second voting student regent. The Assembly Appropriations Committee determined that the amendment's costs to the



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- [Fight for the Future of Higher Education: Academic Freedom from the Classroom to the Clinic](#)
- [Our Concerns Over Revisions to APMs 15 and 16](#)
- [Fight for the Future of Higher Ed Town Hall](#)
- [Letter from AAUP to UC Objecting to Trellix](#)
- [Judge rules Trump demands of UCLA must be made public](#)

Remaking the University

- [Liner Note 43. Caring for Austerity](#) - 11/30/2025
- [MLA and BDS 9: Letter by Liron Mor Declining 2025 Scaglione Prize for Comparative Literary Studies \(Guest Post\)](#) - 11/26/2025
- [Anatomy of a Fall: The Case of Indiana University \(Guest Post\)](#) - 11/20/2025

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- [Inside Higher Education](#)
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- [California Professor](#)

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Search

UC Faculty Associations

- [UCLA Faculty Association](#)
- [UCSB Faculty Association](#)
- [UCSC Faculty Association](#)
- [UCB Faculty Association](#)
- [Council of UC Faculty Associations](#)

Other Faculty Organizations

- [American Association of University Professors](#)
- [California Faculty Association \(NEA\)](#)
- [UC-AFT](#)

Topics

[politics](#) (2278) [UC](#) (2073) [UC Regents](#) (1876) [health care](#) (1418) [State Budget](#) (1265) [governor](#) (1114) [UC budget crisis](#) (964) [diversity](#) (922) [UC-Berkeley](#) (902) [pension](#) (659) [pensions](#) (589) [admissions](#) (538) [tuition](#) (527) [athletics](#) (518) [CSU](#) (407) [transportation](#) (389) [UC-Davis](#) (374) [online education](#) (338) [UCOP](#) (308) [uc retirement](#) (301) [ucrp](#) (300) [traffic](#) (293) [audio](#) (291) [new](#) [hotel-](#)

UC would be “minor and absorbable.” However, Glazer [said] that the committee decided the amendment would not progress, without specifying a reason...

Full story at <https://calmatters.org/education/2025/11/uc-regents-student-voting/>.

Note: The Regents experimented with appointing a non-voting student advisor briefly. The position ended in 2019. See:

<https://dailybruin.com/2019/01/17/uc-board-of-regents-votes-to-end-student-adviser-position-this-summer>.

Whether there will be any discussion of this matter, perhaps in public comments, at the upcoming Regents meetings is unknown.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [community colleges](#), [CSU](#), [legislature](#), [UC Regents](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 164

From [Inside Higher Ed](#): *An independent arbitrator ordered Portland State University to reinstate 10 faculty members after determining the university violated its collective bargaining agreement with the Portland State University American Association of University Professors, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported. The faculty senate in April voted no confidence in the administration's "Bridge to the Future" plan to address an \$18 million budget deficit, and the vote "underscores the fact that the university made its layoff decisions before it had sufficient evidence to support them. That is a violation of the collective bargaining agreement," the arbitrator wrote in her decision.*



PSU-AAUP filed a labor grievance after the university laid off 17 non-tenure-track professors at the end of the 2024–25 academic year as part of its plan to close the deficit before the end of the spring term. The remaining seven employees declined to grieve their layoffs...

The union contract requires university officials to follow a specific, lengthy process to lay off faculty members for economic reasons—as opposed to eliminating courses or programs—which the arbitrator determined they did not do. Portland State is considering an appeal...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/11/13/portland-state-ordered-reinstate-some-laid-faculty>.

From the [LA Times](#): *The University of Southern California is in the throes of its most aggressive cost-cutting drive in memory — a grinding period of financial austerity that has shaken the university's moneyed reputation and raised doubts among faculty and staff about the school's ability to sustain itself as a top-tier institution. Aiming to eliminate a budget deficit that ballooned to more than \$200 million, the private school has cut nearly 1,000 positions, or almost 4% of its workforce.*

Faculty and staff said that the layoffs have been especially stressful because they have been ongoing for months, although the university said last week that they are nearly complete — and that as many as 200 of those who lost their jobs could find new positions at the school. Other cost-saving measures have included restrictions on discretionary spending, such as travel for conferences...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-11-12/usc-layoffs-cuts-deficit>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [Portland State U](#), [USC](#)

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 89



From the [Harvard Crimson](#): *Harvard laid off 38 information technology workers... in its latest cost-cutting measure as the University faces extended financial uncertainty. Harvard's chief information officer, Klara Jelinkova, announced the layoffs in a Nov. 4 email to HUIT staff, citing "significant financial challenges" at the University level. Jelinkova added that no further layoffs were anticipated...*

The HUIT layoffs are only the latest in a series of labor-related cuts, as Harvard juggles the impacts of a hiked endowment tax and federal funding cuts. Harvard laid off 35 workers at the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences last month, and

both the Harvard Kennedy School and School of Public Health laid off an undisclosed number of workers earlier this year...

Full story at <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/11/14/huit-layoffs-financial/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:10 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [Harvard](#), [politics](#), [public funding](#)

[conference center](#) (282) [UC enrollment](#) (281) [enrollment](#) (257) [UC-San Diego](#) (256) [community colleges](#) (238) [LAO](#) (226) [UC-Irvine](#) (183) [fund raising](#) (167) [UC-San Francisco](#) (159) [UC-Santa Barbara](#) (159) [UC-Santa Cruz](#) (156) [controller](#) (148) [faculty center](#) (144) [UC-Riverside](#) (140) [ballot propositions](#) (132) [CalPERS](#) (122) [UC-Merced](#) (114) [faculty pay](#) (109) [Master Plan](#) (102) [Yudof](#) (90) [UCRS retirement](#) (62) [parking](#) (61) [Faculty Association at UCLA](#) (60) [privatization](#) (59) [CalSTRS](#) (50) [UC Berkeley](#) (35) [copyright](#) (34) [campus climate survey](#) (28) [UCRS](#) (22) [Michigan Model](#) (18) [UC Merced](#) (17) [uc funding](#) (16) [Regents](#) (15) [State Contribution](#) (14) [UCOF](#) (14) [faculty recruitment](#) (12) [UC pay](#) (7) [graduate education](#) (6) [UC San Diego](#) (5) [UC Irvine](#) (3) [UCPolitics](#) (3) [teaching evaluation](#) (3) [UC Santa Cruz](#) (2)

Blog Archive

▼ 2025 (1046)

▼ November (108)

[The Northwestern Deal](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 177](#)

[Watch the Afternoon Regents Meeting of Nov. 19, 2025](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 176](#)

[Funding Squeeze](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 175](#)

[Happy Thanksgiving: Then and Now](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 174](#)

[Bugged - Part 3](#)

[Watch the Morning Regents Meeting of Nov. 19, 2025](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 173](#)

[\(Possible\) Strike News](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 172](#)

[Tower](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 171](#)

[Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 94](#)

[News of Ratification](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 170](#)

[Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 93](#)

[Lawsuit Targets UC, Others](#)

[Watch the Regents Health Services Committee Meetin...](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 169](#)

[Letter from the Prez](#)

[Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 92](#)

[Romance?](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 168](#)

[State Budget Outlook](#)

[Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 91](#)

[Uncancelled - And then postponed](#)

[Going Up](#)

[Makarechian on value of UC and of immigrants](#)

[Cancelled](#)

[Economics 1 - Just saying...](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 167](#)

[Theater Revival](#)

[Burnett](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 166](#)

[Statements - Part 2](#)

[Continued Receipts Above Estimate](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 165](#)

The Lease

The ongoing saga of UCLA's lease of a baseball field from the VA continues:

From the [LA Times](#): UCLA, the private Brentwood School and a parking company are collectively paying only about \$2.3 million annually to lease land with a market value of more than \$48 million on the Department of Veterans Affairs West Los Angeles campus, the Trump administration concluded in a new report. * The report, filed with the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday, indicates a shift in the VA's opposition to portions of a federal judge's ruling last year that nullified those leases and ordered about 2,500 units of temporary and permanent housing to be built on the 388-acre campus.



The VA appealed the judgment, but, after holding a hearing in April, the appeals court has yet to issue a ruling. In May, President Trump issued an executive order calling for the VA to provide housing for 6,000 people on the campus, a dramatic escalation of the district court's order. In a cover letter to the appeals court, Department of Justice attorney Daniel Winik did not suggest the VA was dropping the appeal, but described the report as an update, "informed by the executive order." ...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-11-11/leases-for-va-land-are-millions-of-dollars-under-market-value-trump-administration-says>.

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*The report is at https://veterans.house.gov/uploadedfiles/2024_wla_leasing_act_cmr.pdf. From the report:

"During this reporting period, UCLA reported that it provided additional services and support to Veterans valued at \$2,946,913. VA can neither confirm nor substantiate if the benefits claimed by UCLA were in fact provided to Veterans and if the estimated value of the claimed benefits is accurate."

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [athletics](#), [UCLA](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 163

From the [Daily Cal](#): UC Berkeley's Philosophy Forum is facing pushback from campus students for hosting author and philosopher Peter Singer on Nov. 6 due to controversy from Singer's comments on people with disabilities. Singer is best known for his novel, "Animal Liberation," and his advocacy for people living in global poverty. However, he has also faced backlash for his support of euthanasia for infants with severe disabilities. Many in the disability community see his views as eugenics. During the Philosophy Forum event, Singer gave a presentation on effective altruism which was followed by a Q&A session. When asked about a hypothetical scenario regarding procreation, he shared that he believed people with disabilities should refrain from reproducing in some cases.



UC Berkeley's Disabled Students' Program, or DSP, sent out an email Sept. 24, approximately two weeks after the event was announced, that said it had been made "aware of a student organization's efforts to invite a speaker to UC Berkeley." However, the email did not explicitly mention Singer or the Philosophy Forum by name. The email affirmed a student group's free speech rights to have speakers on campus while also stating that "constitutionally protected speech can still be deeply hurtful and nothing will hinder our efforts to support impacted members of our community." ...

Philosophy Forum organizer Matthew Henry said concerns about Singer were valid and important. He agreed that issues such as these need to be discussed, and argued philosophy is the best way to do so. "The reason I am a big fan of Peter Singer is not because of his views on disability," Henry said. "I am a big fan of Peter Singer because of his views on our obligations toward people in extreme poverty and our obligations toward animals. So, that is why I invited Peter Singer."

...Henry said it is important to invite philosophers to the forum even when their views are controversial in order to engage with their ideas in conversation. He also said the Philosophy Forum had facilitated discussions with a number of students who reached out with concerns about Singer's invitation to speak, and was informed of potential protests against Singer...

Full story at https://www.dailycal.org/news/campus/philosopher-peter-singer-speaks-on-campus-drawing-backlash-from-students-with-disabilities/article_657f8726-51cb-43cf-b1c8-3b894f896369.html.

From the [NY Times](#): The president of the Boston University College Republicans has been attacked online for saying on social media that he had called immigration agents before a raid at a Boston carwash in which nine workers were detained. Zac Segal, a Boston University junior and a track athlete, according to his school bio page, posted on social media on Nov. 7 that he

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 90

Statements

Overwhelming votes

Two

Straws in the Wind - Part 164

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 89

The Lease

Straws in the Wind - Part 163

New Notice

No Billion

Not Everyone Is Prepared

Straws in the Wind - Part 162

Rumors - Part 2

Athletic Investments - Part 4

Straws in the Wind - Part 161

Lane Squeeze Near UCLA This Weekend

Last Minute

Revitalizing Westwood

Straws in the Wind - Part 160

I never promised you a Rose Bowl? - Part 2

Bugged - Part 2

No thank you

Bugged

Straws in the Wind - Part 159

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 88

Averted Strike News

Straws in the Wind - Part 158

You Don't Say

All in 30 Minutes? - Part 2

Special Systemwide Assembly Meeting: Nov. 20, 2025...

Naming

Straws in the Wind - Part 157

Cosmetic Compacts

Reminder - Don't Choose What's Not on the Menu

Straws in the Wind - Part 156

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 87

The Regents are Coming: Nov. 18-20, 2025

Coming Soon to Berkeley

Straws in the Wind - Part 155

Two Suits Settled

Cornell Deal

Angry Judge

Straws in the Wind - Part 154

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 86

Holmby

Straws in the Wind - Part 153

The End

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 85

Assessing Options

Rumors

Straws in the Wind - Part 152

I never promised you a Rose Bowl?

They don't quite say don't give it

Straws in the Wind - Part 151

Animals

Athletic Investments - Part 3

In Case You Missed It

Straws in the Wind - Part 150

Special

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 84

had “been calling ICE for months” about workers at Allston Car Wash, near the Boston University campus in the Allston neighborhood. Federal agents swarmed the business on Nov. 4, detaining five women and four men who worked there, according to their lawyer, Todd Pomerleau. The workers are contesting their detentions in court, he said.

Mr. Segal’s post about the carwash included a link to an article about the raid. He wrote that immigration agents “finally responded to my request to detain these criminals. As someone who lives in the neighborhood, I’ve seen how American jobs are being given away to those with no right to be here. Pump up the numbers!” ... It is not clear that Mr. Segal actually had anything to do with causing the Nov. 4 immigration raid in Allston. The Trump administration... denied that Mr. Segal had brought agents to the carwash...

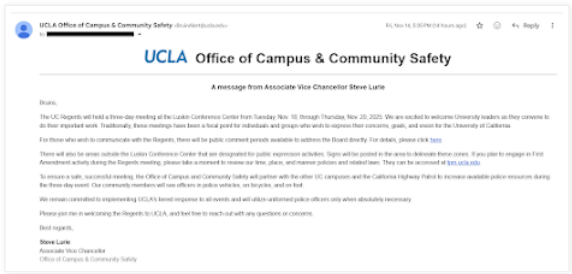
Boston University’s president, Melissa Gilliam, said in a statement that Mr. Segal’s original post had raised “many concerns” and that the school would support “those who are distressed by this situation, as well as ensuring the safety of all others.” ...

Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/14/us/boston-university-republican-student-ice-carwash-workers.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [academic freedom](#), [Boston University](#), [diversity](#), [UC-Berkeley](#)

New Notice



I haven’t seen an email such as the one above - circulated last Friday - prior to Regents meetings taking place at UCLA. If the text is unclear in the image, here it is below:

UCLA Office of Campus & Community Safety

A message from Associate Vice Chancellor Steve Lurie

Bruins,

The UC Regents will hold a three-day meeting at the Luskin Conference Center from Tuesday, Nov. 18, through Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025. We are excited to welcome University leaders as they convene to do their important work. Traditionally, these meetings have been a focal point for individuals and groups who wish to express their concerns, goals, and vision for the University of California.

For those who wish to communicate with the Regents, there will be public comment periods available to address the Board directly. For details, please click here: <https://uocp.questionpro.com/a/TakeSurvey?tt=PO89%2Bs1bHmIECHrPeIW9eQ%3D%3D>

There will also be areas outside the Luskin Conference Center that are designated for public expression activities. Signs will be posted in the area to delineate these zones. If you plan to engage in First Amendment activity during the Regents meeting, please take a moment to review our time, place, and manner policies and related laws. They can be accessed at <https://tpm.ucla.edu/>.

To ensure a safe, successful meeting, the Office of Campus and Community Safety will partner with the other UC campuses and the California Highway Patrol to increase available police resources during the three-day event. Our community members will see officers in police vehicles, on bicycles, and on foot.

We remain committed to implementing UCLA’s tiered response to all events and will utilize uniformed police officers only when absolutely necessary.

Please join me in welcoming the Regents to UCLA, and feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Best regards,

Steve Lurie, Associate Vice Chancellor, Office of Campus & Community Safety

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:05 AM](#) No comments: 

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[Newer Posts](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Posts](#)

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- [September](#) (116)
- [August](#) (115)
- [July](#) (101)
- [June](#) (96)
- [May](#) (85)
- [April](#) (81)
- [March](#) (83)
- [February](#) (76)
- [January](#) (81)

- [2024](#) (832)
- [2023](#) (828)
- [2022](#) (719)
- [2021](#) (710)
- [2020](#) (914)
- [2019](#) (671)
- [2018](#) (595)
- [2017](#) (666)
- [2016](#) (715)
- [2015](#) (765)
- [2014](#) (704)
- [2013](#) (776)
- [2012](#) (839)
- [2011](#) (738)
- [2010](#) (431)
- [2009](#) (12)

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